



Minutes of the NOAA Small Boat Safety Board Meeting

April 29, 2008

Via Teleconference



Minutes of Small Boat Safety Board (SBSB) Meeting via Teleconference and Go-To-Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Time: 10:00 (PT)

Board members present:

- Mark Miller (Small Boat Safety Program Coordinator)
- Dennis Thaute, OLE
- Wayne Hoggard, NMFS (SE Region)
- Dana Wilkes, NOS
- Chad Yoshinaga, NMFS (PI Region)
- Jack Burkes

Board members absent:

- Dennis Donahue, OAR
- Craig Gillis, SECO
- John Humphrey, OMAO Fleet Safety

Agenda Items discussed:

1. LCDR Miller made several announcements and reports:
 - a. The NAO is signed by VADM Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., US Navy (Ret.) but is on hold pending Deputy AA's signatures which should occur any day.
 - b. NANCY FOSTER had a small boat accident on Friday afternoon (25 April). A 23' Sea Arc took on water and rolled over. No injuries were reported and a full investigation is ongoing. The rescue was very quick as additional units were close by. Board members discussed the need to establish protocol from the SBSB to send a safety team to conduct investigations. Need to review Charter and determine what level within NOAA is logical. Additionally, it was mentioned that Risk Managers should be assigned to develop recommendations to mitigate risks. Finally, the investigation will also look at the big picture NOAA and look at the types of boats used and if they are appropriate.
 - c. NOAA Component Instructors was the next agenda topic discussed. Miller updated the SBSB that all 24 regional instructors were trained and had their class material (Tinker Toys). The goal now is to keep the "Train the Trainer" program alive with continued training.
2. LCDR Miller and the board discussed TWIC.
 - a. All personnel are required to get it to keep their Coast Guard license. Recommend everyone get it by September; however, not sure on funding for NOAA employees.
3. Wayne Hoggard discussed Type II PFD's.
 - a. Inspectors on a recent inspection pointed out that policy doesn't list Type V PFD's as meeting Type II standards. The SBSB agreed that for NOAA, Type II and Type V PFD's will be considered the same for personal use.



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4. LCDR Miller reported on the need for funds for printing charges for NOAA Component Student manuals.
 - a. The SBSB agreed that students should have a take away from the course and Miller is seeking funding approval from the CFO.
 - b. Current funding is in place to supply limited distribution to instructors.
 - c. Request LO support for money to continue (Approx \$20-25 each).
 - d. SBSB discussed the detriment of continued unfunded mandates throughout NOAA.
5. LCDR Miller gave the details of a request for a Little Port Walter, AK SBEX waiver request and pointed out there was an 18 hour boat ride from Juneau, AK for an inspector/surveyor to travel out there. Historically, it is accomplished by the COBB staff. Miller will draft a plan and submit it to the SBSB for approval.
6. LCDR Miller discussed the OMAO BS&S Solution. SBSB determined 4 hours will not be enough time to train properly (Fast Rescue Boat). A large amount of turnover also hampers this plan. This issue will be discussed further at the next SBSB.
7. Next agenda item was the new EPA Discharge restrictions and more information is needed to discuss at the next SBSB.
8. Finally, the Waterway Watch topic was discussed. Miller recommends adding a slide to the NOAA component briefing (Policy Section). This has Homeland Security implications.
9. New Topics: Wayne requested a waiver for a Type I PFD due to storage limitations on a Type II boat. Other boats will be in vicinity and it is in inland waters. SBSB recommends a Risk Assessment be conducted and submitted for consideration.
10. Lastly, the SBSB discussed a Safety Board meeting in Alaska in the July-August timeframe.
11. The next SBP Board meeting will be May 30th 10:00 (PT).
12. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:25 PT.